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Message Text

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62
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 /084 W
---------- 065839
R 082251Z NOV 75
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3837
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, PFOOR, SREF, XF, UNRWA
SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA- FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEW EAST.

1. AT NOVEMBER 5 MEETING OF UNRWA WORKING GROUP, COMMISSIONER GENERAL RENNIE PRESENTED GLOOMY PICTURE OF FINANCIAL SITUATION. HE FELT THERE NOT YET SUFFICIENT RECOGNITION OF URGENCY OF SITUATION, AND REITERATED THAT IF $13.2 MILLION SHORRAGE NOT MET THIS MONTH, HE WILL ON DECEMBER 1 BE FACED WITH NEED TO BEGIN LAYING OFF 15,000 CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF UNRWA. ONE BRIGHT SPOT, HE SAID, WAS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES PROMISE TO CONTRIBUTE TWO MILLION DOLLARS. THIS AMOUNT, ADDED TO UNITED KINGDOM PLEDGE OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS AND
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EC-9 CONTRIBUTION OF FIVE THOUSAND TONS OF CEREALS OF

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UNCERTAIN VALUE, HAS APPARENTLY REDUCED UNWRA DEFICIT NOW TO $8.3 MILLION. HIGH COMMISSIONER STATED NO POSSIBILITY RAISING FUNDS THORUGH SALE UNRWA ASSETS, SINCE THESE ARE CONSUMABLE STORES RAHTER THAN CAPITAL ASSETS.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF RESOURCE POSSIBILITIES LEBANESE DELEGATE URGED CONSIDERATION OF MANDATORY CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH REGULAR UN BUDGET. UK DELEGATE BRIDLED IMMEDIATELY AND STATED HE WOULD HAVE TO OPPOSE SUCH A MOVE IF FORMALLY INTRODUCED. IDEA WAS DROPPED.

3. AT SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 10TH HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL PRESENT HIS STATEMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT. "REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST" WILL BE PRE-SENTED BY GROUP RAPPORTEUR (NORWAY). UN SECRETARIAT TELLS US IT IS TRYING TO PUBLISHREVISION OF WORKING PAPER IN TIME FOR DISTRIBUTION MORNING NOVEMBER 10.

4. GIVEN GRAVITY OF SITUATION, SIR JOHN RENNIE STATES HE INTENDS TO ASK SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOR GUIDANCE. HE HAS MADE QUITE CLEAR HIS CONCERN THAT CESSATION OF UNRWA ACTIVITIES WILL MEASURABLY INCREASE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AMONG THE PALESTINIANS AND ENDANGER PEACE PROSPECTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
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